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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

COGSWELL BUILDING

STATE OF MONTANA

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

February 14, 1985

Re: Preliminary Environmental Review
Valley Industrial Park
Class II Landfill

PLEASE RETURN

Board of County Commissioners, Valley County Courthouse, Glasgow, MT
Michael J. Goff, Manager, P.O. Box 4675, Valley Industrial Park, MT
Cherie' Nelligan, County Sanitarian, Courthouse Annex, Glasgow, MT
Carlo Porteen, Glasgow City-Co. Planning Bd., P.O. Box 431, Glasgow, MT
Editor, Glasgow Courier, Box 151, Glasgow, MT
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, MT
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Div., DHES, Cogswell Bldg., Helena
Harold Chambers, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604,
the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the
Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning Valley
Industrial Park, Class II Landfill.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform
all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of
the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have
a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary
Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15)
days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within
the allotted time.

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JCG:vc
Encls.

Sincerely,

JOHN C. GEACH
Solid Waste Management Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

PLEASE RETURN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59601
(406) 444-2821

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences Division/Solid & Hazardous Waste Bureau

Project or Application Valley Industrial Park Class II Landfill Application

Description of Project Valley Industrial Park has submitted a solid waste management system license application to this department for a class II landfill located in Section 33, Township 31N, Range 40E, Valley County (see attached map). This location is on the old Glasgow Air Force Base property and has been operated for a number of years. A class II landfill can accept Group II wastes which include household putrescible and non-putrescible wastes, building demolition materials, appliances and tires.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats			X			X
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution				X		X
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality			X			X
5. Aesthetics				X		X
6. Air quality			X			X
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy			X			X
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production			X			X
5. Human health				X		X
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			X
11. Industrial & commercial activity			X			X
12. Demands for energy			X			X
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals			X			X
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows			X			X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Valley County Health Dept., Valley County

Planning Board

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. _____

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS Not Necessary

PER Prepared by: _____

John C. Geach
JOHN C. Geach

Date: 2/15/85

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. TERRESTRIAL, AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS

The location of this site provides limited habitat for small animal and reptile species. The excavation of trenches and the construction of internal roadways will temporarily remove a small portion of this habitat. However, due to the small biological population density of this area and the vast amount of similar habitat immediately adjacent to this landfill site, this impact will be insignificant.

2. Water quality, quantity and distribution

What appears to be a perched water table was located approximately 28 feet below the ground surface of the site. The landfill trenches have been excavated to a depth of fifteen feet. A separation distance of approximately thirteen feet will remain between the bottom of the site's trenches and this perched groundwater. This separation distance complies with the refuse disposal rules and degradation of this limited water source is not expected to occur. There are no known shallow water wells in the area which may be hydrologically connected to this water source.

3. Geology and soil quantity, stability and moisture

The addition of solid waste to the soil will permanently alter the soil quality, moisture content and stability of the fill areas. This impact should not be adverse if proper refuse compaction, covering and grading techniques are employed at the landfill.

4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality

Some natural grasses and plant species will be disturbed in the development of fill areas and internal roadways. These losses should be minor and temporary. Completion of these areas will allow vegetation to re-establish through either natural selection or re-seeding.

5. Aesthetics

A sanitary landfill operation could seriously alter the aesthetics of its location. However, through the use of litter fences, trench fill areas and proper landfill operational techniques as the applicant proposes, no negative aesthetic impacts are expected to occur.

6. Air Quality

Licensed landfills may obtain periodic burning permits for clean wood wastes from the state's Air Quality Bureau. These permits are only issued for dates when local air quality conditions are favorable and ventilation is good. The emissions from these permitted fires should not significantly impact the area's air quality.

8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air and energy

A landfill places a long-term limitation on the future use of its property. Surface settling and methane gas generation from decomposing refuse prohibit the use of the site for conventionally constructed buildings. Completed landfills are ideally suited for uses which do not require



conventional structures such as agricultural or recreational uses. The applicant proposes to use the completed landfill for agricultural grazing.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

4. Agricultural or industrial production

While this landfill upon completion could be utilized for agricultural purposes, its industrial possibilities will be limited due to ground instability and methane gas production. Specially engineered industrial structures could be designed to overcome these completed landfill associated problems.

5. Human health

An improperly operated refuse disposal site can pose serious human health hazards. Outbreaks of diseases such as anthrax, dysentery and rabies have been directly related to improper refuse disposal practices. The landfill practices the applicant proposes to incorporate in the site's operation and maintenance will prevent these human health hazards from developing.

10. Demands for government services

Governmental services will be required on the local and state levels for inspectional and administrative services associated with the issuance of a solid waste management system license to this landfill.

11. Industrial and commercial activity

See #4 Agricultural or industrial production

12. Demands for energy

Gasoline, diesel and other petroleum products will be consumed in refuse transportation to the landfill site and in the operation of the equipment needed at the site to properly handle and dispose of the refuse.

13. Locally adopted environmental plans and goals

The location of this landfill complies with all existing county planning and zoning regulations as certified by the applicant.

14. Transportation networks and traffic flows

Since this landfill has been in existence for several years the traffic patterns to the site have been somewhat established with no notable impacts. However, if new activity occurs at the industrial park, these traffic patterns and flows could dramatically change. These changes would not be anticipated to cause any severe impacts.



